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cordingly, in response to a suggestion made by Professor Haffkine, Mr. E. H. Hankin undertook a series of experiments on ants, for which the Jains arrange regular feasts in their houses.

He found that corpses of plague-stricken rats were attacked by large numbers of these insects; that when they leave such a corpse, plague bacilli are discoverable on their feet and antennæ; that the same species of ants feed on men's food preserved in houses, which they may contaminate, and that they sometimes bite human beings. Mr. Hankin, being unable to extend his investigations to other insects, Doctor Simond continued the research with reference to fleas. His experiments were attended with negative results in a large number of cases, as have been those of other bacteriologists. It is known, however, that in New South Wales the investigations of Dr. J. Ashburton Thompson and of Dr. Frank Tidswell seem to support the idea that fleas and bugs are concerned in transmitting plague.

*Experiments with a curative serum for plague.*

(a) One hundred and eleven patients were treated in the Modikhana Municipal Plague Hospital, Bombay, with serum prepared by Professor Terni, of Messina; 90 of them died. Of 112 not so treated, and observed for comparison, 91 died. In the Maratha Municipal Plague Hospital, 16 were treated with this serum, of whom 12 died, while of 16 others observed for comparison, 11 died.

(b) Of 50 patients treated in the Maratha hospital, with serum prepared by Doctor Brazil, of San Paulo, 41 died, while of 50 control cases, 45 died. In the Modikhana hospital, of 20 so treated, 17 died, while of 20 non treated, 15 died. All the above patients were treated by hypodermic injections, the doses in some cases running into hundreds of cubic centimeters.

(c) At present a trial is being made of a serum prepared at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, by Roux, Yersin and Borell.

*Studies on diseases other than plague.*

1. *Antityphoid vaccine*.—Twenty-eight doses of this vaccine were prepared in the laboratory and supplied to medical officers in several parts of India.

2. *Snake venom and antivenene*.—In April, 1903, the animals which were being immunized with snake venom for the preparation of antivenene were transferred to Kasauli in the Punjab. There were sent at the same time such supplies of snake venom as had been collected, the amount being sufficient for many years of work. Venom is still being collected at the laboratory, and after being dried is sent to Kasauli for purposes of immunization. Between June 1, 1902, and March 31, 1904, there were received at the laboratory 676 live snakes, sent from various parts of India, chiefly from the central provinces. Of this number 194 were cobras (*Naja tripudians*) and 158 were Russell's vipers (*Daboia russellii*).

Between June 1 and September 30, 1902, 481 bottles of antivenene were supplied to medical officers in India. After that date the supplies were sent out from Kasauli.

3. *Scorpion venom*.—Captain Greig, of the Indian medical service, undertook a series of experiments with a view to ascertaining the minimum lethal dose of this venom for animals and its effect upon the

blood corpuscles. The experiments so far show that the venom is very deadly for white mice.

4. *Beri-beri*.—The properties of a bacillus isolated from beri-beri patients by Prof. Axel Holst, of Christiania, were studied experimentally on brown monkeys. In accordance with Holst's view that the disease is conveyed mainly or entirely by food, brown monkeys were fed on material contaminated with the above bacillus, but with no positive results.

5. *Lathyrism*.—In the central districts of India, Jaora grain is supposed to cause a specific paralysis in man. Accordingly experiments were made on fowls, pigeons, sparrows, guinea pigs, and rabbits to note the effect of this grain upon them. There was but one positive result—that of a rabbit which was struck by partial paralysis for a few days, but soon recovered.

6. Pathological specimens were examined for diagnosis in 130 cases of diseases of man and in 61 of those of animals. Among the diseases diagnosed were spirillum fever, malarial and enteric fevers, anthrax, fibro-sarcoma, tuberculosis, diphtheria, hydrophobia, and Malta fever.

Since the foundation of the Plague Research Laboratory in October, 1896, 45 medical officers have served there for varying lengths of time and contributed to the work done there.

The above facts have been compiled from the latest report of the laboratory, issued by Prof. W. M. Haffkine, on April 31, 1904.

#### ITALY.

##### *Reports from Naples—Inspection of vessels—Dysentery at Rome.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, August 1 and 8, as follows: During the week ended July 30, 1904, the following ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

#### NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
July 26	Prinz Adalbert.....	New York .....	579	190	750	24
28	Nord America.....	.....do .....	290	75	450	7

##### *Dysentery at Rome.*

At Rome there is a light epidemic of dysentery among the troops in garrison in the Castello Sant'Angelo, the huge cylindrical tomb, now a fortress, so conspicuous and celebrated as a monument of ancient Roman times. Cases of the disease have also occurred in the Via di San Francesco a Ripa, which extends on the right bank of the Tiber toward the Trastevere, a section of Rome inhabited almost exclusively by working people. The laboring class of this section differs in many respects from other citizens of Rome. They claim to be the most direct descendants of the ancient Romans. Cases of dysentery, not usually of a grave character, occur almost every summer in this part of the city. The prevalence of the disease is, at present, on the decrease. The largest number of cases occurred between June 15 and